(ख) क्या इस परियोजना के लिये मशीनें, जमीन, तथा अन्य निर्माण कार्यों पर पचास करोड़ रुपए, खर्च किये जा चुके हैं ;

(ग) क्या इस परियोजना के रख-रखाव पर प्रतिमास 5 लाख रुपए खर्च हो रहे हैं ; और

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि कोयला पर आधारित इस उर्वरक कारखाने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार ने अपेक्षित धनराशि उपलब्ध नहीं करायी है, यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इसे प्रयोजनार्थ अपेक्षित धनराशि उपलब्ध कराने का विचार रखती है ?

उर्वरक विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० नटवर सिंह) (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) 31 मई, 1986 तक कारबा परियोजना पर 18.24 करोड़ रुपये की राशि व्यय की गई है ।

(ग) वेतन, मजदूरी एवं रख-रखाव पर लगभग 2.5 लाख रु० का मासिक व्यय होता है ।

(घ) आरम्भ से संसाधन बाधाओं के कारण कोरबा उर्वरक परियोजना का कार्यान्वयन स्थगित कर दिया गया था । तत्पश्चात् यह निर्णय लिया गया कि तालचर एवं रामागुण्डम स्थित कोयले पर आधारित दो अन्य उर्वरक संयंत्रों में उत्पादन स्थिर हो जाने के पश्चात ही परियोजना के आगामी कार्यान्वयन पर विचार किया जायेगा ।

Enquiry into the working of Durgapur, Bokaro and IISCO Steel Plants

1591. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 124 given in Rajya Sabha on 25th July, 1986 and state :

(a) what are the reasons for incurring losses by the Durgapur, Bokaro and IISCO Steel Plants to the tune of Rs. 425.30, Rs. 108.22 and Rs. 335.81 crores, respectively;

(b) whether any inquiry into the working of these steel plants has been made by Government ; and

(c) if so, what is the result thereof stating whether any responsibility for the unsatisfactory performance of these steel plants has been fixed ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The main reasons for which the steel plants at Durgapur, Bokaro and Burnpur have incurred losses are the following :

Durgapur Steel Plant :

(1) Low capacity utilisation due to various external constraints and other technological reasons;

(2) Unremunerative prices particularly of railway products like wheels, axles, fish plates and sleepers in the past;

(3) Higher production of unremunerative items like semis, bars and roads in the total product-mix;

(4) Ageing of the Plant and outmoded technology resulting in high consumption of energy and usage of costly furnace oil in the Open Hearth process for steel making, low yields and uneconomic operations.

Bokaro Steel Plant :

In the initial years, Bokaro Steel Plant had incurred losses but now the plant has been making profit from 1981-82. The accumulated loss of Rs. 108.22 crores as on 31-3-1985 is likely to be almost wiped out by the anticipated profit for 1985-86. The accounts for the year 1985-86 are under finalisation and audit.

The Bokaro Steel Plant incurred losses in the initial years due to low production arising out of the gestation period and power shortages particularly in the year 1979-80 and 1980-81. High capital related charges had to be absorbed by low level of production.

Indian Iron and Steel Company :

(1) Obsolete technology and aged plant and equipment ;

(2) Low production & performance;

(3) Increases in cost of production not fully compensated by increase in steel prices ;

(4) High interest burden ;

(5) High incidence of manpower cost ;

(6) Losses made by the sub-units, *i.e.* collieries and fuondry complex at Kulti ;

(7) High coke rate due to absence of a sinter plant.

(b) and (c) The performance of the steel plants are constantly under review. A scheme has been formulated for the modernisation of the Durgapur Steel Plant. The Japanese are studying the IISCO steel plant to prepare a feasibility report for its modernisation. Schemes have also been formulated to remove bottlenecks that may stand in the way of Bokaro achieving its rated capacity of 4 mt in 1988-89.

Efforts are being made to bring about improvement in the work-culture through instilling a sense of belonging and cost consciousness all round.

Surplus manpower is being redeployed by retraining.

Marine Production in Tamil Nadu

1592. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal or project under Government's consideration which would enable Tamil Nadu to increase the marine production during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details of the projects to be undertaken during the above period;

(c) the projects already undertaken during the Sixth Five Year Plan period;

(d) what are the on going projects in this regard; and

(e) whether any projects with foreign assistance are being envisaged if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During VII Five Year Plan a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Introduction of Improved Beach Landing Craft is under operation in Tamil Nadu. A scheme for motorisation of traditional fishing craft is also under consideration for implementation during the Seventh Five Year Plan. A joint venture between Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation and Industrialisation Fund for Developing Countries (I.F.U.) Denmark is under implementation for production and marketing of Fibreglass Reinforced Plastic boats. Besides, there are nine state schemes for Deep Sea Fishing, Mechanisation and Improvement of Fishing Craft.

(c) All the schemes mentioned above except the joint venture scheme for production and marketing of Fibreglass Reinforced Plastic